

Application No. 10/698,707
Amendment dated August 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2006

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16-21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Application Publication No. 62-103791 to Eiji et al ("Eiji") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,600,509 B1 to Radford et al ("Radford").

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eijii in view of Radford as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Japanese Application Publication No. 07-044674 to Frey et al ("Frey").

Claims 22 and 23 are allowed.

Claims 3-6 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 3, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 2 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 4, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten to depend from claim 1 rather than cancelled claim 3.

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Claims 7 and 8 have not been amended.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 10 and 11 have not been amended.

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 9 rather than claim 7.

Claims 14 and 15 have not been amended.

Claims 16-21 have been amended to include the limitations of former claim 3.

Claims 22 and 23 have not have amended.

Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to include the limitations of former claim 9.

These changes do not introduce new matter. Each claim now contains the limitations of claims allowed by the Examiner or depends from such a claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections and objections to all claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

In light of the current amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Radford and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Eiji in view of Radford, are respectfully traversed as moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.


This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 1 from 12 to 13 and does not increase the total number of claims, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$200.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

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Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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